

By: Senator(s) Caughman, Bryan, Jackson
(11th), Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 613

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE
2 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF ALLEN (AL) W.
3 GARY III OF MENDENHALL WHOSE EXTENSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE INCLUDED
4 MAYOR, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, HOSPITAL CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER,
5 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AND MAJOR IN THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL
6 GUARD.

7 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of Allen
8 (Al) W. Gary III (71) of Mendenhall, Mississippi, on January 8,
9 2018. His record of achievement and legacy of leadership to all
10 in Mississippi is a wonderful example for public servants; and

11 WHEREAS, Al was born on December 18, 1946, in Vicksburg,
12 Mississippi, the son of A.W., Jr., and Ursula "Sue" Gary. He grew
13 up in Mendenhall, graduating from Mendenhall High School in 1965.
14 Al attended the University of Mississippi, played football at
15 Millsaps College, and graduated from Delta State University with a
16 degree in Math Education. He also attended Belhaven College and
17 later earned his designation as a Certified Public Accountant; and

18 WHEREAS, Al's professional career began as a public school
19 teacher. He taught and coached for several years across the State
20 of Mississippi at school districts, including North Pike School



21 District, Coahoma County School System, and the Simpson County
22 School System; and

23 WHEREAS, Al later began a long career as a CPA and Auditor.
24 He was a member of the staff of the State Auditor's office, and
25 later offered himself for further service as a candidate for the
26 Office of State Auditor; and

27 WHEREAS, after leaving the State Auditor's office, he moved
28 to McComb where he became the first Administrator for Pike County.
29 He guided the county toward implementation of the county unit
30 system of government. Al also worked as a partner in a CPA firm
31 in McComb with his friend, Al Dribben. He and his wife, the
32 former Marjorie Jean "Jeannie" Fitzgerald of McComb, then moved to
33 his hometown of Mendenhall. Al began a private CPA practice with
34 Fred Bourn of Mendenhall and Jackson, conducting state government
35 audits. In 1999, he took the position of Business Manager for the
36 Simpson County School District and continued in that position
37 through 2009; and

38 WHEREAS, in 2001, Al was elected Mayor of Mendenhall, and
39 completed his term in 2005. After a brief period of retirement,
40 in 2011, Al took on another career position in his hometown as the
41 CFO/COO at Simpson General Hospital until the time of his death.
42 Al also served on the Board of Directors at Peoples Bank. He
43 served as the Chairman of the Rural Health Solutions Board for the
44 Mississippi Rural Health Association, and for many years, Al
45 worked as a Budget Consultant for the City of Morton; and



46 WHEREAS, Al had been a member of the Mississippi National
47 Guard and was retired from the U.S. Army Reserves after 24 years
48 of honorable service with the rank of Major; and

49 WHEREAS, Al was a true servant, a servant of the Lord, his
50 family, his church, and of each community in which he resided. He
51 was a member and Deacon at First Baptist Church of Mendenhall. He
52 had also served as a Gideon. Al served in so many ways and never
53 sought recognition for himself, but any recognition he received
54 was always well deserved. Al was honored by the Mendenhall Area
55 Chamber of Commerce as "Citizen of the Year" in 2015; and

56 WHEREAS, besides being interested in community work, Al loved
57 all sports, especially Ole Miss football. He enjoyed spending
58 weekends at his deer camp with his favorite hunting and fishing
59 buddies, Charles Cockrell of Dauphin Island, Alabama, and Don
60 Crawford of Ocean Springs. Above all else, Al's love was for his
61 family. In the past 10 years, Al especially enjoyed being
62 "Papaw," and spending time with his precious granddaughters, Sunny
63 and Rose Peden; and

64 WHEREAS, Al was preceded in death by his parents. He is
65 survived by his wife, Jeannie Fitzgerald Gary of Mendenhall; three
66 daughters: Jessica Wilson (Estus), Jamie Gary, and Jenny Gary
67 Peden; two grandchildren, Sunny Peden and Rose Peden; one brother,
68 Howard Gary; and special friends, Randall and Patty Neely and
69 Steven and Deborah Ammann, all of Mendenhall; and



70 WHEREAS, we pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this
71 most public-spirited citizen of Mississippi whose enormous civic
72 energy is a legacy for all public servants:

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
74 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
75 we do hereby extend the condolences of the Mississippi Legislature
76 to the bereaved family of Allen (Al) W. Gary III of Mendenhall
77 whose extensive public service included Mayor, County
78 Administrator, Hospital Chief Financial Officer, Certified Public
79 Accountant, and Major in the Mississippi National Guard.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
81 the surviving family of Al Gary, forwarded to the Mayor and City
82 Council of Mendenhall, and made available to the Capitol Press
83 Corps.

